

Federal Agency Report Summary

Out of 17 Agency responses:

- **Subcommittee/Working Group Participation – 82%** participate on an FGDC Subcommittee or Working Group, which they do not lead.
- **Strategy – 71%** have prepared a detailed strategy for integrating geographic information and spatial data activities into their business process.
- **Compliance – 88%** have spatial data holdings compliant with FGDC Standards.
- **Redundancy – 94%** ensure that data is not already available prior to collection.
- **Collection – 71%** of contracts and grants involving data collection include costs for NSDI standards.
- **Clearinghouse – 59%** have data and metadata published on the NSDI Clearinghouse.
- **E-Gov – 88%** use geospatial data in their mission activities to provide better services.
- **Geospatial One Stop – 88%** are involved in the Geospatial One Stop Initiative.
- **Enterprise Architecture – 94%** have geospatial data as a component of their enterprise architecture.
- **Partnerships – 100%** coordinate data and build partnerships for data collection and standards development.

Areas of Concern:

- Funding - Without sufficient funding, Agencies cannot implement GIS into mission activities effectively, thereby limiting the ability to fully integrate E-Gov capability. Agencies need funds for standards development.
- Performance Measures – Alternative performance measures are needed for long-term data development strategies.
- Uncoordinated OMB requests – Future OMB inquires and data calls should be coordinated through Senior Executives at the Department Level as well as within the Agencies.
- Limited FGDC authority – FGDC can merely encourage agency coordination without authority to do more. There is no institutionalized method within agency operations for geospatial coordination.
- Few incentives for cross-agency cooperation – Budget allocations don't allow for cross-agency cooperation as they are specifically linked to agency accomplishments.
- Difficult FGDC metadata requirements – Metadata collection requires a great level of effort and commitment. FGDC needs to promote easy mechanisms for developing metadata collection at the time of data collection and let developers know these tools exist.
- Location of emergency services nationwide
- Security of data layers and which layers are appropriate for public use
- Section 508 issues
- Volumes of data - NASA's Earth Science data holdings were doubled in less than a year.
- Advancing data visualization technology

Lessons Learned:

- Partnerships are the essential element of success.
- OMB should educate senior policy and management officials on Circular A-16, Geo 1 Stop, FGDC, and OGC processes. (Especially in those agencies without a major mapping line-function).
- Collaborative funding strategies need to be developed to facilitate the agencies to work together towards NSDI goals.
- Private sector and Federal data warehouse/portal activities should be explored to minimize non-complimentary activities.
- The ability to achieve high levels of positional accuracy is improved by NGS's GPS techniques.